Housing & Property Services Risk Register

Updated: November 2016

| Risk Description | Possible Triggers | Possible Consequences | Risk Mitigation/Control | Officer | Action(s) | Resource | Due Date | Residual Risk Rating |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| | <u> </u> | Generic Risks (all to | eams) Terms & conditions review | T <u></u> | T | Staff Time | March 2017 | |
| 1. Inadequate staffing resources | Inability to recruit/retain staff Uncompetitive salaries, terms and conditions | statutory obligations Inability to provide services at normal levels | The Service Area Crisis Plan has been updated to ensure sufficient plans are in place to maintain service in the event of significant loss of staff or systems | HPMT (Ken Bruno, Russell Marsde n, Simon Brooke | 1.1 HPMT to feed into corporate review. 1.2 HPMT to investigate the opportunity for implementing further mobile working arrangements so that we have a | Stair Time | March 2017 | |
| | Poor working environment | Pressure on remaining staff leading to | Mobile (home) working practices in place | plus Head of Housing | more flexible workforce and working arrangements | | | |
| | Unsafe working practices | deterioration in staff morale | Proactive assessment of upcoming events including reviewing Weather warnings sent by Community | and in their absence | 1.3 HPMT to ensure all appraisals have been completed | | | Impact |
| | Poor management of staff | Complaints/Legal action/strike action | Protection and putting in place appropriate mitigations | DCE (BH)) | 1.4 To investigate the opportunity for implementing further mobile working | | | Likelihood |
| | Increasing sickness levels | Additional costs to employ temporary staff | | | arrangements so that we have a more flexible workforce and working arrangements | | | |
| | Heavy workloads | Reputational damage | | | 1.5 Ensure that home workers are adequately managed. | | | |
| | Low morale | Death or ill health | | | | | | |
| | Accidents | | | | | | | |

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| 2. Insufficient financial resources to sustain the services (HRA and General Fund) | Unexpected cuts in sources of finance Major uninsured or uninsurable incident Poor budget management Increasing costs Significant variances in the assumptions that underpin the Business Plan Housing association Right-to-Buy levy Mandatory rent reduction 2016 – 2020 Changes to government regulations and legislation | Reduction in staffing levels Low morale among staff Inability to deliver services Increased complaints Reputational damage Reduction in Services Reduction in the delivery of new homes Inability to make capital repayments | Regular budget monitoring and early warning systems for any unexpected major expense or drop in income. Early contact with insurance Officer. Regular review of business plan performance which is reported to Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee bi-annually Business Plan is updated annually and reported to Executive for approval All significant decisions are evaluated and impact on the business plan is considered Business Plan has its own risk register which is annually reviewed along with the Business Plan. Housing Futures project reviewing the HRA Business Plan Keep abreast of policy developments and changes in Government. Any change in the law would affect all stock-owning councils and in this case we would have collective | HPMT | 2.1 Update the stock condition information to make sure that the business plan is based on robust data and future liabilities are fully understood 2.2 Re-profile HRA Business Plan 2.3 Introduce active Asset management Policy to generate income and reduce property-based liabilities | | | Likelihood |

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| 3. Failure to:- Respond to new legislation. Comply with new/existing legislation Take into | Lack of adequate training or failure to comply with policies & procedures Lack of | Failure to deliver statutory and contractual obligations Deterioration in service delivery | Effective supervision and management controls in place including; one to ones, team meetings, appraisals, training, recruitment & selection, capability etc. | НРМТ | 3.1 Complete a review of all policies to ensure that they are up to date, relevant and compliant and put in place a programme for updating and reviewing on a regular basis. | Staff time | September 2017 | |
| account legal implications of decisions | appropriate performance management | Increase in number of complaints/ | New performance management framework is being developed and implemented and brought into use | | 3.2 Assess the need for specific procedures to back up policies and prepare these as necessary. | Staff time | To follow the above. | |
| | Inadequate supervision and management procedures Fraud & corruption by staff, contractors or tenants (e.g. tampering with electric supply/meter) Staff shortages | compensation/ negligence/liability/ claims resulting in financial cost and/or reputational damage to Council Poor service performance against PAP&SAP measures Deterioration in staff morale Not legally compliant Breach of Data Protection Act | in April 2015 Corporate audit programme in place and service specific management audits in place ELearning system in place and Promotion of corporate policies, including; Anti-Fraud & Corruption Strategy, Bribery Act 201, Internal Audit guidance notes, Whistleblowing Policy, Money laundering Policy, Employee Code of Conduct Compliance with Code of Financial Practice & Authorisation limits supported by system based controls Separation of duties and declarations of interests Effective budgetary control Electronic devices have integrated security systems so that systems cannot be accessed if they are stolen | | 3.3 Commission department wide document management system and processes to include recommendations for managing documents and implementation support. | Staff time | March 2017 | Likelihood |

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| 4. Loss of IT | Failure of WDC system or support, Power failure, System problems, including hacking/ cyber security threats & cyber crime Major incident at Riverside House | Failure to meet statutory obligations Inability to provide services at normal levels which could include an effect upon home working Pressure on staff leading to deterioration in staff morale Legal action Reputational damage | The Service Area Crisis Plan has been updated to ensure sufficient plans are in place to maintain service in the event of significant loss of staff or systems | HPMT | 4.1 Teams to document procedures for all critical tasks | Staff Time | March 2017 | Impact |

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| 5. Accidents /health and | Lone working | Death or ill health | Operate Staff Alert List | HPMT | 5.1 All HPMT managers to carry out lone worker risk assessments | Staff Time | 31 st March 2017 | |
| safety of staff | Potential violent | Increase in sickness absence | Partnership links with MAPPA, Police and Social Services | | for their lone workers | | | |
| Hazardo | customers | Loss of confidence | Issue of mobile phones to staff | · | Staff Time | 31 st March 2017 | | |
| | Hazardous premises | Deterioration in | working out of the office | | signed up and on the system. | | | |
| | Bad weather | staff morale | Bespoke assessment of safe working practices where required | | 5.3 Carry out a full Departmental review, section by section, to | Staff Time | 31 st March 2017 | t |
| | | Increase in compensation Joint Consultative Group understand risks | | Impact | | | | |
| | Heavy workloads | claims from staff | (management and unions) | | | | | Likelihood |
| | Tiredness | Reputational damage | Accident/incident reporting and investigation | | | | | LINCIIIIOOU |
| | Driving | Impact on service | DSE assessments | | | | | |
| | Inadequate/faulty equipment | delivery | WDC Health & Safety Advisor has reviewed the operation of the Tunstall Lone Worker system on our recommendation & reliability has improved as a result | | | | | |
| | | | Corporate health & safety policy& risk assessments | | | | | |
| | | | Adequate equipment including PPE | | | | | |
| | | | COSSH, safe systems at work and permits to work compliance | | | | | |

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| 6. Accidents /health and safety of contractors | Not complying with procurement requirements Lack of appropriate performance & contract management Inadequate risk management Poor communication with contractors | Injury/death Contractors refusing to work Increase in number of complaints/ compensation/ negligence/liability/ claims Damage to buildings Failure to deliver statutory and contractual obligations Deterioration in service delivery Poor service performance against Priority Action Plan (PAP) & Service Area Plan (SAP) measures Deterioration in staff morale | Effective procurement and contract management procedures in place including regular contractor meetings Materials and installations are specified to meet relevant standards Monitoring of workmanship by WDC Clerk of Works, Surveyors & Property Maintenance Officers | HPMT | 6.1 Update stock condition information 6.2 Review of Repairs and Maintenance contracts | Staff time Staff Time | December 2017 March 2017 | Likelihood |

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|---|---|--|---|---------|--|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 7. Failure of contractor to deliver service | Lack of appropriate performance & contract management Inadequate procurement Contractor dissatisfaction with client | Increase in number of complaints/ compensation/ negligence/liability/ claims Damage to buildings Failure to deliver statutory and contractual obligations Deterioration in service delivery Poor service performance against Priority Action Plan (PAP) & Service Area Plan (SAP) measures Deterioration in staff morale | Effective procurement and contract management procedures in place including regular contractor meetings Materials and installations are specified to meet relevant standards Monitoring of workmanship by WDC Clerk of Works, Surveyors & Property Maintenance Officers | HPMT | 7.1 Review of Repairs and Maintenance contracts (see also Corporate Risk Register) | Staff time | March 2017 | Likelihood |

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| Housing & Pro | perty Services Sp | ecific Risks-Asset | Management | | | | • | |
| 8. Poor asbestos management practices | Failure to survey, monitor or manage asbestos containing materials in accordance with CAR 2012 Untrained contractors Contractor fails to check the register Tenants not informed about asbestos | Loss of confidence and reputational damage Improvement notices Prohibition notices Fines, compensation and imprisonment Exposure of staff, tenants and third parties to asbestos containing materials Ill health and/or death | Asbestos Management Plan reviewed and in place Asbestos survey and re-inspection programme Asbestos removal programme Asbestos register is maintained and is shared with staff & contractors Survey recommendations are followed up and executed where reasonably practicable Staff and contractor asbestos awareness training Training log maintained Regular asbestos information articles in tenants newsletters Asbestos awareness is a standard agenda item on both contractor & team meeting agendas Regular meetings held with asbestos contractors Regular asbestos management meetings held with key H & PS staff Appropriate contracts in place for the survey, management and removal of asbestos Appropriate staff in place to manage council processes and contractor performance | Russell Marsde n | 8.1 Asbestos awareness training to be provided for all relevant H & PS staff 8.2 Monitor training of staff and contractors to ensure it remains current and that it is cascaded down to, for example, subcontractors | Staff time Staff time | On-going On-going | Likelihood |
| | | | | | | | | |

| Risk Description | Possible Triggers | Possible Consequences | Risk Mitigation/Control | Officer | Action(s) | Resource | Due Date | Residual Risk Rating |
|---|---|---|---|-----------------|--|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 9. Inadequate gas appliance maintenance & certification | Failure to carry out repairs or annual servicing due to inability to gain access to properties or lack of knowledge about the existence of a gas supply | Loss of confidence and reputational damage Improvement notices Prohibition notices Fines, compensation and imprisonment Ill health and/or death Damage to property | Gas servicing programme in place Monthly review of programme progress and performance Robust process for gaining access to properties enforceable by Law Installation of gas restrictors at known properties subject to boiler type Appropriate contracts in place for gas servicing Appropriate staff in place to manage council processes and contractor performance Certification stored in MIS database | Tanya dawson | 9.1 On-going monthly monitoring of gas servicing programme and progress 9.2 Gas awareness training sessions to be provided for all appropriate staff (these can be provided as & when needed i.e. for new starters) 9.3 Review & improve existing policy & procedures in relation to gas | Staff time Staff time | On-going On-going March 2017 | Impact |
| 10. Inadequate electrical testing of housing assets & corporate assets in accordance with industry best practice & council policy | Failure to undertake electrical tests due to no access Poor management and lack of expertise Failure of existing systems due to lack of regular inspection or testing | Loss of confidence and reputational damage Improvement notices Prohibition notices Fines, compensation and imprisonment Ill health and/or death Damage to property | Electrical Safety testing programme in place. Monthly review of programme progress and performance Electronic copies of ECRs stored on asset database | Tanya Dawson | 10.1 Ensure all "no access" properties have an ECR in place 10.2 Review & update existing policy & procedures in respect of electrical testing | Staff time Staff time | March 2017 March 2017 | Likelihood |

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|---------------------|---|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| | Failure to maintain testing regime to all relevant properties | | Legionella Awareness Group Legionella Management Policy & procedures Legionella testing programme in place Monthly review of programme progress and performance Training of premises managers of the actively managed sites in the weekly flushing of outlets & monthly temperature testing All high risk WDC buildings have schematic drawings to show possible Legionella risk areas Insurance in place | Officer Mark Perkins | Action(s) 11.1 Review &update the Legionella Management Policy 11.2 Ensure that all WDC buildings have schematic drawings to show possible Legionella risk areas 11.3 Maintain training records for relevant H&PS staff 11.4 Ensure adequate records of statutory tests are maintained 11.5 Develop legionella element of MIS database and transfer testing records to MIS. | Resource Staff time Staff time Staff time Staff time Staff time Staff time/ICT | Due Date March 2017 March 2017 On-going On-going March 2017 | |
| | | | | | | | | |

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| 12. Risk of widespread fire in blocks of flats or corporate assets | Fire in a communal area of a block of flats or individual flat which spreads to other parts of the building Damage by fire to a corporate property General acts or omissions by anyone Accidental or deliberate ignition of a fuel Electrical fault Gas explosion | Loss of confidence and reputational damage Improvement notices Prohibition notices Fines, compensation and imprisonment Ill health and/or death Damage to property Effect on staff Need to rehouse occupiers | Compliant services testing programmes (gas, electric, biomass, fire detection and fire fighting equipment) Fire risk assessment programmes Procedure for the inspection and removal of stored items from communal areas Tenants Newsletter articles advising of fire safety measures Procedure for leaseholder fire doors Compliance Register in place All repairs recommended in FRAs have been carried out | Russell Marsde n | 12.1 Continue to operate services testing programmes 12.2 Automate FRA process in MIS including letters to tenants & leaseholders | Staff time Staff time | Ongoing March 2017 | Impact |

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| 13. Housing and/or corporate building fabric | Unapproved tenant alterations | Loss of confidence and reputational damage | Maintenance and improvement works programmes the Council's operational Housing & Corporate | Russell Marsde n | 13.1 Develop robust asset management database | Staff time | March 2017 | |
| falls into disrepair | Anti-social behaviour and vandalism | Improvement notices | Property portfolio Accurate and properly maintained stock condition information | | 13.2 Complete 100% HRA stock condition survey | Staff time | September 2017 | |
| | Lifestyle | Prohibition notices Fines, | Cyclical survey programmes | | 13.3 Maintain and develop corporate property stock condition information 13.4 Continue to monitor performance of maintenance and | Staff time | On-going | |
| | Tenants choosing not to report repairs or refusing | compensation and imprisonment Ill health and/or | Monthly inspections of operational corporate assets | | | Staff time | On-going | |
| | access Unlawful | death Damage and | Clear escalation process to be available for Building Managers and tenants | | improvements works contracts | | | |
| | occupation | deterioration to property | Performance management framework | | | | | |
| | Poor quality work and/or materials | Weakening of legal position for lease covenants | Awareness articles in home news | | | | | Impact |
| | Repairs not undertaken on a timely basis | Increased reactive | Learning from complaints & complaints monitoring | | | | | Likelihood |
| | Lack of resources | repairs and reinstatement costs | Tenancy Agreement & Tenants Handbook Adequate repair and maintenance | | | | | |
| | Staff/managemen t failure | Loss of income Budget overspends | covenants in corporate leases Regular inspections & post | | | | | |
| | Repairs incorrectly identified & | Damage to adjoining properties | inspections carried out by Housing & Property Services teams & by other teams outside the Service | | | | | |
| all of In | allocated at point of report | proposition and the second | Sitexing properties | | | | | |
| | Inadequate levels of inspections | | Contract monitoring arrangements in place | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

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| 14. Deterioration of external areas – paths, greens trees | Failure to maintain Lack of awareness of ownership Vandalism Flytipping | Injury to members of the public Damage to buildings including subsidence due to trees Damage to vehicles | All staff who regularly visit estates to inspect for problems | James Baker | 14.1 Ensure Tenancy Officer visits cover communal areas | Staff time | March 2017 | |
| | | Complaints/legal action/Compensati on claims | | | | | | |
| 15. Failure to maintain rural street and footway lighting | Anti-social behaviour i.e. tapping into street lighting electrical supply Inefficient inspection regime | Death or ill health Unstable and dangerous footway lighting Insurance claims & complaints Reputational damage & loss of confidence Fines and prosecution | Programme of EICR and periodical visual inspections in place Responsive repairs service Location of rural street lighting available on the GIS mapping system | Mark Perkins | 15.1 Continue inspection programme | Staff time | On-going | Impact |
| 16. Failure to maintain existing or replace missing street nameplates | Supplier failure & delay due to a shortage of manufacturers Unreported damage or removal | Death or ill health due to emergency services being unable to or delayed in locating address Failure to meet the Statutory Duty Injury to member of the public | Staff vigilance and communication | Neil Bridges | 16.1 Continue to operate street nameplate replacement service | Staff time | On-going | Impact |

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| | | Н | lousing & Property Services Specif | ic Risks- | Sustaining Tenancies | , | | |
| 17. Unable to respond to | IT system failure | Death or ill health | Business Continuity arrangements with Tunstall | Zoe Court | 17.1 Continuously review call performance against targets | Staff time | On-going | |
| emergency calls from Lifeline users | Communications failure | Reputational damage | Corporate SLA with ICT | | | | | |
| | Power Failure | Litigation | Business resilience reviews in respect of lifeline as part of TSA | | | | | |
| | Loss of Control Centre | | accreditation | | | | | Impact |
| | Corporate recruitment and retention policies adversely affecting 24 hour services | | | | | | | Likelihood |
| | Corporate standby policy | | | | | | | |
| 18. Failure of fire alarm system at sheltered | Failure of fire alarm system due age | Injury or death | Compliant service testing programs, checks carried out weekly and quarterly | James Baker | 18.1 Monitor performance of contract | Staff time | Ongoing | |
| schemes, sensors failing to detect fire. Or delay in detection of a | Systems that are out of date and not repairable | Damage to property | Where there is a technical problem with the system, then it is either repaired urgently, and /or temporary battery alarms are installed. | | 18.2 Ensure any follow up works from inspections are carried out in a timely manner | Staff time | Ongoing | |
| fire | | Lack of confidence and reputation. | If the sensor does send a call to the Lifeline Monitoring Centre, and no staff are at the scheme, then 2 response officers will be sent to the scheme, and the appropriate emergency services will be summoned. | | 18.3 Ensure sufficient Lifeline staff on duty to cover such eventualities, staff to be employed to cover standby rota | Staff time | Ongoing | Likelihood |
| | | | Replacement programme underway | | | | | |
| | | | Clear procedures and staff training | | | | | |

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| 9. Significant on-payment of ent leading to Ongoing welfard reform (includi | ng income | Clear and effective rent arrears recovery procedures | John Gallagh er | 19.1 Raise opportunities of financial inclusion initiatives within other council departments | Staff time | ongoing | |
| Ongoing econor uncertainty Supporting Peo | Increase in homelessness Reduced services | Financial inclusion strategy Financial inclusion initiatives Additional staff Resources | | 19.2 work with partners to explore the benefits of collaborative working such as The Breathing Space | Budget | Ongoing | |
| Budget Cuts to floating support as a result of ongoing austeri | ry levisions | Vulnerable groups identified and offered support Staff training | | 19.3 Explore the potential of local and national affordable credit initiatives such as the Rental Exchange and Credit Unions | Staff time | March 2017 | |
| measures. Pay-to-Stay LHA Caps for Social Housing Tenants withholding ren | Negative publicity & criticism from Members Reputational damage | Increase tenant awareness Closer working with other departments – especially Health and Community Protection Ensure money advice services in the district are fit for purpose Work in partnership with other Registered Providers to deliver local and national financially inclusive initiatives Financial risk assessments for new tenants Increase tenant access to Direct Debit | | 19.4 Undertake analysis to identify future risks as a result of ongoing austerity measures on the "working poor" | Staff time | March 2017 | Likelihoo |

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| | Lack of adequate policies and procedures Inexperienced staff or staff not knowing triggers & procedures Lack of partnership working and information sharing WDC not being aware that a customer is subject to MAPPA | | County-wide protocol for safeguarding vulnerable adults. (Currently working jointly with other Housing Districts, Boroughs and WCC) Involvement with other agencies to manage risk & regular attendance at MAPPA & PPO Meetings MAPPA & PPO flags on Active H Staff Alert List database Training on safeguarding adults | Officer HPMT | 20.1 To develop an internal procedure for accepting and allocating MAPPA and PPO customers, including a risk management plan template 20.2 Develop an information sharing protocol for all interested parties | Staff Time Staff Time | March 2017 March 2017 | |
| | level 2 or PPO level 3 | Litigation | | | | | | |
| | WDC Staff not regularly attending MAPPA & PPO meetings | Ineffective partnership working | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

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| 21. Failure to understand and react to customer/client contributions | Lack of staff support from the Service to facilitate involvement Not delivering the expectations of our customers Lack of interest by residents | Failure to meet tenant & leaseholder expectations Failure to meet the HCA Regulatory Standard for Tenant Involvement & Empowerment Negative press coverage Increase in corporate complaints Reduction in satisfaction levels Reputational damage | Housing Advisory Group has three tenants/leasehold representatives. The performance management framework is focussed on customer experience and includes a number of measures of customer satisfaction The publication of localised newsletters which are targeted to specific locations and/or customer base The Service Improvement Team is in place to support the service in developing its tenant contribution structures Programme of Estates Walkabouts are in place which enable residents to directly improve the area in which they live in | HPMT | | | | Likelihood |

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| Housing & Pro | perty Services Sp | ecific Risks- Strate | gy & Development | | | | | |
| 22. Inability to meet the Housing Strategy objective number 2 – to meet the need for housing across the district | Worsening Housing Crisis Lack & cost of land availability Failure to identify land available for new build Inadequate appraisal of full range of options Legislation changes e.g. Welfare Reform Poor partnership arrangements with Registered providers & Developers Ineffective S.106 procedure Poor Housing Market Assessment data Inadequate information/records Not effectively using/spending commuted sums or other resources | Not meeting the Housing Need Increase in numbers on the waiting list Increase in homelessness & demand for temporary accommodation Reputational damage Damage to RSL partnerships Criticism from politicians & the Regulator Loss of opportunity to get Government funding Policy failure | The Housing Strategy has an action plan to address the strategic objective Housing Revenue Account Business Plan directs all available resources towards building new affordable homes The Council is exploring the potential to develop a Council Economic Development and Housing Company and other strategic opportunities to increase the delivery of affordable homes Build partnerships with Housing Associations e.g. W2 Strategic market assessment Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document in place to ensure developments deliver a suitable amount of affordable housing Commuted Sums policy in place and regular monitoring of funds | Charlott e Rowan- Lancast er | 22.1 A new housing strategy to be prepared for April 2017, with report to HAG in January and Executive in March 2017. | Staff Time | April 2017 | Likelihood |

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| 23. Failure to meet statutory licensing scheme for homes in multiple occupation (HIMO) | Inadequate staffing Inadequate systems Not being proactive in visiting and assessing properties Attitude of landlords | Failure to meet statutory requirements Reputational damage Legal challenge Complaints | Programme of inspections in place Regular performance reporting Maintain adequate staffing levels Continue to publicise & highlight what the Council does to encourage decent management of HMOs | Mark Lingard | 23.1 HMO Licencing programme kept under review. 23.2 Consideration to be given to options for smoothing out the profile of application due dates | Staff Time Staff time | March 2017 March 2017 | Likelihood |

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| 24. Failure to adequately manage residential leaseholds | Lack of staff awareness of leasehold rights and responsibilities. Lack of leaseholder | Increased complaints potentially escalating to legal action. Inability to fully | Current management arrangements. | HHPS | 24.1 Establish a project to improve services to leaseholders. | Staff time | Start Dec 16. Recommend ations Mar 17 Implementat ion dates TBC | |
| | awareness of responsibilities | recover costs through service charges. | | | | | | t |
| | Different lease agreements in place on different properties. | Damage to adjoining council properties | | | | | | Likelihood |
| | Some leaseholders responsible for buildings insurance | | | | | | | |
| 25. Increasing levels of homelessness | Buoyant housing market pushing house prices out of reach of local people Recession causing increasing evictions | Increased workloads and pressure on staff Pressure on temporary accommodation leading to increased bed and breakfast use Pressure on budgets | Current management and monitoring arrangements | Elaine Wallace | 25.1 Project to review temporary accommodation provision. | Staff time. Budget implications to be identified through the review. | Underway with completion expected by 31 st March 2017. | Impact |
| | | Reputational damage | | | | | | Likelihood |
| | | Complaints | | | | | | |
| | | Increased rough sleeping | | | | | | |